

Res. 328, "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month", a bill I gladly supported. Less than a month later, on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent.

I have sought to do my part as well; earlier this year, I introduced to this body H.R. 228, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility.

And so I join once again in not only giving my support for the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month, but in urging the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to H. Con. Res. 84, a bipartisan resolution I authored, supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month. First, I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman CHET EDWARDS, for being the lead cosponsor of this resolution and for his efforts in helping move this resolution forward. Congressman EDWARDS is a strong advocate on Military Quality of Life issues in Congress and I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with him on the vital issue of raising awareness of National Military Appreciation Month. In addition, I would like to thank the National Military Appreciation Month organization for their grassroots efforts in building support for the resolution. It truly has been a collaborative effort for an important cause. It is one of the highest honors of my career to pay tribute and recognize these great patriots who serve and defend our Nation.

National Military Appreciation Month provides a period encompassing both the history and recognition of our armed services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. It allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through the participation of the community with those who serve encouraging patriotism and love for America.

This month gives the nation a time and place on which to focus and draw attention to our many expressions of appreciation and recognition of our armed services via numerous venues and also to recall and learn about our vast American history.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families—well over 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history.

Congress and the American people continue to stand by our service men and women. These brave warriors are working nonstop to protect our free-

dom and to keep every American safe. We should be grateful for their sacrifices and that of their families. We must do everything we can for the men and women who are put in harm's way for the sake of our nation. Let us celebrate them just as we celebrate the other important entities that make up this wonderful country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this important resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 84.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 388) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 388

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2009 is the 101st anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love,

understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 10, 2009, is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are fewer great honors, I think, in Congress than to stand in support of this bill which affirms the goals of Mother's Day and celebrates the role of mothers in the United States. I first would like to thank Mr. FORTENBERRY, the gentleman from Nebraska, for his courage in going out on a limb here and introducing this legislation. I would also like to commend Chairman TOWNS and my colleagues on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for bringing this resolution to the floor by unanimous consent in their infinite wisdom.

On Sunday, we celebrated the 101st Mother's Day. It may come as a surprise to some, particularly our own mothers, that it took our country over 130 years to officially designate a day praising motherhood. Nevertheless, it is important to annually pause and recall that our lives and our country's history would have been much different but for the contributions of our mothers to our families and to our country.

I would not presume, nor am I brave enough, to speak on behalf of America's 82 million mothers; instead, I would simply like to speak to their importance in shaping our society and our future.

Mothers are indeed the backbone of the American family. With great love and compassion, they lay the foundation for all children to grow into honorable citizens. It is no stretch to say that our sustained national character of goodwill and moral strength is the result of dedicated motherhood.

Many of our greatest national heroes attribute their own successes to the guidance of their mothers. While examples are numerous, I will quote President Abraham Lincoln who once said of his own angel mother, "I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

I am sure that similar thanks and acknowledgements are appropriate for

the mothers of every American. I am sure of that.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues would agree that it is inadequate to spend just 1 day a year celebrating the contributions of America's mothers, but as our small measure of gratitude, I urge this body to join its 56 cosponsors and agree to House Resolution 388. And I reserve our time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his poignant remarks about motherhood. We appreciate that. And, Mr. Speaker, I also have the pleasure of rising today to call attention to this time-honored celebration of Mother's Day.

This past Sunday, I, along with millions of Americans, paused to uplift the women who have shaped our lives and our country because, as the House of Representatives declared in 1914, the service rendered to the United States by the American mother is the greatest source of the country's strength and inspiration. Mothers have been celebrated throughout history in many languages, religions, and cultures.

Few traditions have withstood the test of time as the social celebration of motherhood. From its earliest roots in Egyptian society to our modern American holiday, the commemoration of mothers is timeless. On May 10, we celebrated the 101st anniversary of the first observance of the modern American Mother's Day when a woman from Grafton, West Virginia, named Anna M. Jarvis, held an observance in her mother's honor at St. Andrew's Methodist Church.

Afterward, when the junior Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, rose before Congress in 1908 to propose the establishment of Mother's Day at the request of Ms. Jarvis and the Young Men's Christian Association, he, interestingly, was originally met with opposition due to sensitivities concerning the role of women in society and the role of the Federal Government in honoring them.

It took until 1914, but Congress eventually passed a resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson then issued a proclamation directing the flying of the flag as a "public expression of the love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

Mr. Speaker, we now honor all mothers for their immeasurable contribution to the very core of our society. Mothers sustain and strengthen our Nation through their leadership in the family and community. And despite the dynamics of modern society, the ability of mothers to meet the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding and compassion remains constant. As we commemorate mothers for the integral role they play in shaping the course of our Nation's past, present and future, we also revere and emphasize the importance of the

role of the family and the home as the true and ever-present foundation of our country.

Mr. Speaker, some may question why Congress is considering this matter at all, but I would like to say that each day here we tirelessly debate the challenges and nuances of modernity becoming mired in such a dizzying array of interventions that it is easy to lose sight of our ever-enduring core values. We don't often take the time to reflect on the essential philosophical foundations that have guided this Nation through many turbulent times, so I think it is refreshing that we now take time to pause and consider a resolution such as this that is timeless.

So I encourage my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join in support of this resolution today honoring the 101st celebration of the modern Mother's Day.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join and support the gentleman's words.

We have no further speakers on our side at this time, so I will continue to reserve.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I just want to ask all Members to join with Mr. FORTENBERRY, the gentleman from Nebraska, in support of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 388 "Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day." I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Representative FORTENBERRY from Nebraska for introducing this resolution, and today, I rise today in order to recognize and celebrate all of the mothers in our nation.

Mothers are the nurturers, and caregivers that prepare our Nation's young for the challenges that life may hold. Their work may be inside or outside of the home, or both, and their contributions to this society can never be fully appreciated or valued. Jane Sellman definitely hit the needle on the head when she said, "The phrase 'working mother' is redundant."

Our mothers are our first teachers and they should be celebrated everyday. However, like many things we can take them for granted. This Mothers Day, take a moment to call your mother or to visit with her if you can. I must pay special tribute to my mother Ivalita Jackson and my late aunt Valrie Bennett who was like a mom.

Remember that being a mom is no easy feat. Our mothers are strong, determined, with big hearts and always loving. A mother must be able to juggle three things at once and still manage to make dinner and read bedtime stories. No doctor can take away all the ailments of a sick child or even an adult for that matter, like a mother can. Mothers are caring and courageous women who make a difference in the lives they touch. As the Jewish proverb says, "God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers."

Mother's Day is also a celebration for grandmothers, mother-in-laws, stepmothers, foster

mothers, godmothers, mothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, for those women who have no relations by blood but who give the gift of mothering to children.

Mothers bring a unique and valuable perspective to all aspects of American life. Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation. They serve with distinction as legislators, mayors, judges, doctors, lawyers, and administrators, and their impact in these areas has proved to be monumental.

I could not find words descriptive enough to fully express the depth of admiration that I feel for women who fill this important role in our society. They are committed to their families and community not for public acclaim, but for love. As American author Washington Irving put it best, "A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

My heart goes out to those mothers with children who are away at war, I cannot even imagine the fear that they must feel daily. I want to recognize the First Lady, Michelle Obama, who is striking a balance between motherhood and her duties as the First Lady. I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Another former First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis once said, "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."

I hope that we can all reflect on all the sacrifices our mothers made for us throughout the years. A mother's love is unending and her arms are always open. This resolution will ensure that Mothers throughout this nation are formally recognized, and the United States House of Representatives will acknowledge their importance and all that Mothers contribute to our society. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 388 as well. There are few things more important than celebrating the gift of having a mother. Finally to my mom—I love you for giving me my foundation.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 388.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HERBERT A LITTLETON POSTAL STATION

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2162) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in